

## Notes and Observations

ORIGIN OF THE COLONY OF *MELITAEA CINXIA* L. IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — It has now been established that the colony discovered in the Cotswolds in June 1977 (*vide Ent. Rec.*, **89**: 331) had been introduced by Mr. K. A. Harrison when living at Winchcombe. He released approximately 400 small larvae in April 1976, so the butterflies had already survived for two generations.

Sir Cyril Clarke has written to me and recalled the introduction of this species at Morton in Cheshire (1956, *Entomologist*, **89**: 22). That colony became well established for four years until it was extinguished when the habitat was destroyed. It will be interesting to see how the Cotswold colony fares in the future. The owner of the land has agreed not to disturb the site, and if the butterflies appear again this year, a scientific study of the ecology will be undertaken. It is highly desirable that no specimens should be taken by any entomologist who may happen to chance upon the colony. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Poolbrook, Malvern, Worcs., WR14 3JU.

*MINUCIA LUNARIS* D. & S. (LUNAR DOUBLE-STRIPE) IN 1977. — *The Newsletter of the Wealden Entomology Group*, Nr. 3, Vol. 3, contains a paper on "Lepidoptera in and around Staplefield" by T. Newnham. In this, the capture is recorded of a specimen of *Minucia lunaris*, in an m.v. trap at the Victory Inn, Stapleford, Sussex. Mr. Newnham tells us that he took the moth in early June 1977, and as he does not collect he released it. He added that the moth was in perfect condition, and was identified from the illustration in his copy of *South (Moths Br. Isles)*. — Editor.

*SYNCOPACMA VINELLA* (BANKES) IN EAST SUSSEX. — On 10th November, 1976, a specimen of *Syncopacma vinella* unexpectedly emerged from a pot of *Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed) which contained cocoons of *Leucoptera walesella* spun up on the foodplant and elsewhere. The *Genista* had very kindly been collected for me by Col. Emmet at Ditchling Common in East Sussex. This record confirms that the species still occurs at Ditchling, where it has not been in evidence in recent years. The specimen was exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in 1977. — P. J. JOHNSON, 7 Haverhill Road, Horseheath, Cambridge, CB1 6QR, 1.ii.1978.

*AGRIUS CONVULVULI* (LEP., SPHINGIDAE) — LARVAL COLORATION. — In the last paragraph of his account of rearing the above species (1977, *Ent. Rec.*, **89**: 269-271), Mr. Cramp expresses surprise that there was only one green larva amongst the hundred or so reared by himself and his friends. To me, it is more surprising that there was even one. Fairly recent accounts of rearing this species (Phillpott, 1951, *Ent. Rec.*, **63**: 235; Bunn, 1968, *Ent. Rec.*, **80**: 13; Bibbings, 1977, *Bull.*